**Tidioute Heart & Soul Meeting**

**November 18, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Lucinda Leonard, Project Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at 173 Main Street Tidioute, PA. as advertised. The attendance sheet was passed around and signed by all those present.

**Old Business**

1. **Fishing Tournament**

Both the float and booth for the Fishing Tournament were successful. There were approximately 200 surveys collected at the booth from adults and children. There were coloring pages available for children to color what they love most about Tidioute. The children drew pictures of the bridge and their camps. Most children commented that what they loved most about Tidioute is their friends.

1. **Fall Fest**

The Fall Festival was also a successful event for the Heart and Soul. There were 15 entries in the pumpkin carving contest. There were three categories that were separated by age groups. Lucinda said that it was difficult to judge since they had such a wide variety of talent presented. She said that if we were to do the event next year, that the pumpkins be judged in different categories. There should also be a more efficient way to deliver prizes. Some of those who entered a pumpkin did not return to the booth after the end of the festival. They came later in the day to pick up their pumpkin.

1. **Recycling Program**

The NexTrex plastic recycling program is doing excellent. If the community can collect 500 lbs. of qualifying plastic in six months, the community will receive a park bench. The Heart and Soul committee signed the contract in August and has already exceeded the amount needed to get a bench. Although the program is very successful, there are not enough volunteers to complete all the work that goes into collecting the plastic. The labels and tape that are found on some of the packages need to be cut before they can be recycled. It was suggested that a work bee take place for several volunteers to gather and remove the labels/tape from the plastic packages. The work bee will be looked into more once the holidays are over and everyone is less busy.

**New Business**

1. **Hometown Holidays 2021**

Lucinda turned the discussion over to Heather Cass who is helping to oversee the Hometown Holiday event with the school and the Holiday Lighting committee. Heather said the Hometown Holiday will take place December 3, 2021, from 6-8 pm. There will be a parade with tractors, four wheelers, ATVs, and any other similar vehicles that will be lighted up and decorated. The line up will be at 5:30 and the parade will begin at 6 pm. There will be a fire truck with Santa on it in the parade. Santa will be dropped off in Picture Show Park. Once the parade is ended, the festivities will continue in town. Those who attend the event will be able to obtain a stamp card. Participating businesses will stamp the card and once the person has completed the cards will be able to turn them in for a chance of receiving a prize. There will be activities in the school’s new building across from Picture Show Park. There will be homemade doughnuts that can be decorated, free hot cocoa, a coloring contest, and story telling by teachers from the school. They are also trying to get a live nativity which is a work in progress. The Leadership Academy at the school will be selling hot dogs and chips to raise money for a trip. The Parent Teacher Organization will be having a basket raffle to raise money for school trips. The Heart and Soul booth will be in the building and will be offering children to decorate ornaments that are made from plywood. At the booth, the committee will be collecting data from parents as the children decorate ornaments.

Heather said that they are looking for Christmas lights to put on the areas in town that will not be decorated.

1. **Focus of Heart and Soul 2022**

As we move into Phase 2 of the Heart and Soul Program, the focus will be more on collecting stories and conducting interviews. The surveys were considered “thin data”. The stories and interviews will be the “thick data”. It will help put more emphasis on the pride of the community and help the community connect through the stories and socializing. The group talked about the tea party that was previously discussed. The ladies who offered to tell the stories of Tidioute’s past are mostly all leaving for the winter. The group discussed possibly having the tea party during the Spring when they all return. Heather Cass wants to open part of the Tidioute Community Foundation House by the school to the public during events in town. This part of the house will display Tidioute history. She hopes to have pictures of older Tidioute and other memorabilia. This can also be used for any interviews and storytelling that the Heart and Soul would like to conduct.

1. **Meetings for 2022**

Lucinda asked if the group would like to keep the meetings on the middle month of each quarter, third Thursday of the month at 6:30. Vicki McCauley suggested the first month of each quarter would be easier. The group voted with majority in favor of keeping the meetings on the middle month of the quarter.

1. **Public Comment**
2. Carmen Fedele

Mr. Fedele discussed the Recycling Program on Grant St. which is run by the Lion’s Club. The Lion’s Club is able to donate about $12,000 back into the community from the proceeds collected from the recycling program. The Recycling Center sees approximately 42 million plastic bottles, 800,000 lbs. of cardboard, 400,000 lbs. of crushed glass, and 15,000 lbs. of aluminum cans. The recycling center is very important to the community and needs volunteers.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Location is TBD**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Karrah Redick, Secretary